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Money-lenders Act

* 148 *Q*.—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state, with reference to the answer given to Legislative Council Question No. 24, dated 11th February 1959—

(*a*) whether the Money-lenders Act, 1957, has since been brought into force and, if so, the date from which it has been brought into operation; and

(*b*) the number of money-lenders registered in the City of Madras and in each district?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: (*a*) The Madras Money-lenders Act, 1957, has been brought into force in the City of Madras and the Municipalities of this State with effect from the 16th October 1959.

(*b*) A statement[a] showing the number of Money-lenders registered up to 31st January 1960 is placed on the table of the House.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: Taking Madras as an instance, it is found that only 35 individuals have been registered, but there will be more than a thousand persons doing money-lending business in the City of Madras alone. People carry on money-lending business and still they are not registered under the Act. What is the reason for this?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: If the registration has not been appreciable, this work is now being done by the regular department, the Revenue Department. The Government now propose to have some special staff to see that this registration is effected quickly.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: The Act was brought into force in 1957 and there has not been even minimum of registration. Does it not create an impression among the public that while the Act has been passed, the Government are not able to enforce some of the provisions, if not all the provisions, of the Act?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: Though the Act was passed in 1957, it was actually brought into force only in October 1959. Only about five or six months have passed and, as I said, steps will be taken to speed up the process.

DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN: எல்லா மாவட்டங்களே யும் விட மதுரை மாவட்டத்தில் மட்டும் 189 லேவாதேவிக் காரர்கள் எனப் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறுர்கள். இதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன? 10-50 a.m.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: இதற்கு விசேஷமான காரணம் ஒன்றுமில்லே. அங்கு அதிகமான அளவில் மணி லெண்டர்ஸ் இருக்கலாம், அல்லது அங்குள்ள ரெஜிஸ்டிரார் துரிதமாகப் பதிவு செய்துகொடுத்திருக்கலாம்.

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a Printed as Appendix II on page 539 infra.

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Dr. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN: செங்கற்பட்டு மாவட்டத்தில் ஒருவர் கூட பதிவு செய்யப்படவில்லையே, அதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: இதற்கு என்ன காரணம் என்று சொல்ல முடியாது. எல்லாம் இனிமேல் சரியாய்ப் போய்விடும்.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: Sir, the Act provides for penalties. Will the Hon. Minister agree that if it is enforced properly, and if the people have to register themselves and carry on their business in conformity with the provisions of the Act, they will have to leave their business and pack up?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: No. They need not pack up their business. Only after an elaborate discussion in both the Houses, we passed the Act. But in the actual working of it, if any defects are found, then we can consider how to rectify them.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: Sir, is it not a fact that money given on hire-purchase system for various articles such as cycles, also comes under the Act? There is that impression in the public mind. I just want a clarification.

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: There was a representation that it might also come. Some representation was made that it should be excluded. I will look into it.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: What is the present position, Sir? Have the Government not taken a decision or is it pending decision with the Government whether these particular items of money-lending on hire-purchase of articles also should come within the operation of the Act?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN: I do not know, Sir, whether the question is at all in order. The hon. Member cannot put a question to elicit the opinion of the Government.

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM: That too ' legal opinion '.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: I saw in the Press that they also were covered. That is the impression. I just wanted a clarification whether it came within the purview of the Act or not

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It does not arise.

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN: Sir, is it not a fact that hundreds of money-lenders have closed down their business on account of the enforcement of the law in the City of Madras?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: I do not know, Sir. Nor have I got any figures here. I am neither a lender nor a borrower. (Laughter.)

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SRI S. P. SIVASUBRAMANYA NADAR : Sir, are the Government aware that on account of the provisions of the Act, money-lenders are shifting their place of business from the municipal area to the adjoining hamlets?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Yes, Sir. People resort to all sorts of ways to contravene or get over the provisions.

Labour Welfare Elementary Schools

* 149 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the authority under the present rules in force empowered to sanction additional teachers' posts in the case of Labour Welfare Elementary Schools;

(*b*) whether there is any proposal for the sanction of additional posts in schools in Arkonam taluk; and

(*c*) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Works) : (*a*) The Collectors in the case of the districts and the Director of Harijan Welfare in the case of City are empowered to sanction additional posts in Harijan Welfare Schools temporarily subject to the conditions—

that the total expenditure on account of the temporory posts sanctioned during any year does not exceed the appropriation in the budget estimates for that year, and

that the number of teachers to be employed in the schools and the rates of pay and special pay admissible to such teachers are regulated by rule 71 of the Madras Educational Rules and such orders as may from time to time be issued by the Government in this behalf.

(*b*) & (*c*) There is no separate proposal for the sanction of additional posts of teachers in the schools in Arkonam taluk only, apart from the proposal to sanction additional posts wherever required for the Harijan Welfare Schools in North Arcot district as a whole, including an additional staff of three Secondary Grade and seven Higher Grade teachers for Arkonam taluk. The Collector has been informed that he can sanction these posts within the powers delegated to him in this regard and may come up to Government for sanction of additional posts if the conditions mentioned in the said Government Order are not satisfied.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, as there is a lot of delay in view of the fact that only the District Collectors can sanction posts, would not the Government think of an arrangement by which the Labour Welfare Officer, who inspects the schools and finds additional posts necessary, is empowered to sanction these posts?